

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An endoscope container for high-pressure sterilization comprising:

a tray serving as a housing and having a plurality of pores;

a lid member blocking ~~the~~ an opening of said tray and having a plurality of pores; and

a positioning member, formed in one of said tray and lid member, for restricting bending of a predetermined portion of an insertion member ~~having a soft part of an endoscope~~ so that the bend radius of the predetermined portion thereof will be larger than the bend radius of ~~the other portion thereof~~ portions of the insertion member[[.]]

wherein said positioning member corresponding with the predetermined portion of the insertion member restricts bending of at least a distal 70 cm portion of the insertion member.

2. (Original) An endoscope container for high-pressure steam sterilization according to Claim 1, wherein said positioning member includes a concave predetermined-portion part of said tray.

3. (Original) An endoscope container for high-pressure steam sterilization according to Claim 1, wherein said positioning member includes a curved wall that is formed on said lid member to exhibit a bend radius larger than a bend radius the proximal portion of the insertion member exhibits when stowed in said endoscope container.

4-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An endoscope container for high-pressure steam sterilization according to Claim 1, wherein said tray ~~body~~ has a handle and a grip that is grabbed by the hand in order to carry for facilitating carrying of said endoscope container, ~~and a grip.~~

9. (Currently Amended) An ~~endoscope container for high-pressure steam sterilization comprising:~~ an insertion member sheathing member ~~composed~~ comprising:
of a ~~hard~~ pipe portion, which sheathes a predetermined portion of an insertion member of an endoscope and holds the predetermined portion in a predetermined form[[,]]; and

a coil pipe portion that is flexible and sheathes a portion of a flexible tube portion, which is a soft part of the insertion member, the flexible tube portion being proximal from the predetermined portion of the insertion member.

10. (Currently Amended) An endoscope container for high-pressure steam sterilization of an endoscope, the endoscope container comprising:

a positioning member for restricting bending of at least a predetermined portion of an insertion member of ~~an~~ the endoscope ~~having a soft part so that the a bend radius of the predetermined portion thereof of the insertion member will be larger than the a bend radius of the other portion thereof portions of the insertion member, the endoscope withstanding high-pressure steam sterilization~~[[.]]

wherein said positioning member corresponding with the predetermined portion of the insertion member restricts bending of at least a distal 70 cm portion of the insertion member.

11. (New) An endoscope container for high-pressure sterilization comprising:
a tray provided with a plurality of pores through which high-pressure steam is
led and having an opening for stowing an endoscope having an insertion member and a
control section coupled to a proximal end of the insertion member;

a positioning member formed in the tray for positioning the endoscope in the
tray at least in the state of having the insertion member in part bent, the positioning member
effecting the positioning to ensure that the predetermined distal portion of the insertion
member is stowed in a substantially straight form or in a curved form that exhibits a bend
radius larger than that of a bent portion formed at least in one part at the proximal end of the
insertion member.

12. (New) An endoscope container for high-pressure sterilization according to
Claim 11, wherein the positioning member effects the positioning to ensure that a distal
portion of approximately 70 cm long of the insertion member is stowed in a substantially
straight form or in a curved form that exhibits a larger bend radius than that at the proximal
end of the insertion member.

13. (New) An endoscope container for high-pressure sterilization according to
Claim 12, wherein the positioning member effects the positioning to ensure that the distal
portion of approximately 70 cm long of the insertion member is stowed in a substantially
straight form.

14. (New) An endoscope container for high-pressure sterilization according to
Claim 12, wherein the positioning member includes a concave part formed to stow the distal
portion of approximately 70 cm long of the insertion member.

15. (New) An endoscope container for high-pressure sterilization comprising:

- a tray provided with a plurality of pores through which high-pressure steam is led and having an opening for stowing an endoscope having an insertion member and a control section coupled to the proximal end of the insertion member;
- a lid member that blocks the opening of the tray, the lid member being provided with a plurality of pores through which high-pressure steam is led;
- a positioning member formed in at least one of the tray and the lid member for positioning the endoscope in the tray at least in the state of having the insertion member in part bent, the positioning member effecting the positioning to ensure that a predetermined distal portion of the insertion member is stowed in a substantially straight form or in a curved form that exhibits a bend radius larger than that of a bent portion formed at least in one part at a proximal side of the insertion member.